



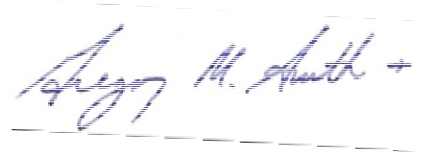
Trinity Church

Wedding Ceremony Guide

Dear Family and Friends,

We're excited that you want to get married at Trinity Church, and we're happy to help! There are so many details regarding marriage and often we end up "putting the cart before the horse." Marriage is a lifelong commitment that is both real fun... and real work. And most of all, it's a way of finding God's grace, after all, that's what a sacrament is. And while it's not something that should be done lightly, the process of preparation is a blessing. Thoughtful preparation will give you the tools you'll need to build a solid foundation for the years to come.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory M. Smith +". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

The Rev. Gregory Smith

Trinity Wedding Guide

What you need from us:

- 1 – A Step By Step guide (this is it!)
- 2 – Declaration of Intent
- 3 – Copy of the Liturgy
- 4 – Wedding Coordination Worksheet
- 5 – Policies (The fine print)

So let's get the ball rolling!

Step 1 - Check the Calendar

Reach out to our office administrator at trinity@trinitymyrtlebeach.org or 843.448.8426 and make sure our clergy are available for BOTH the dates of the wedding and the rehearsal.

Step 2 - Check Your Venue

If you'd like your ceremony to be held at Trinity Church, check the dates for BOTH the wedding and the rehearsal.

Off-site weddings are acceptable, provided they can maintain a worshipful atmosphere – *skydiving is out of the question!*

Step 3 - Check the Service

We only perform services out of the Book of Common Prayer, which is the vintage format upon which most wedding ceremonies are based. There is plenty of room for adaptation, style variation, etc. Just ask! Please read through the service and scripture readings in the service before going any further.

Bulletins are your responsibility. We're happy to make suggestions! Check out a sample bulletin (online) and copy of the liturgy included in the appendix.

Step 4 - Forms, Forms & More Forms

Declaration of Intention - This states your intention to be married to one another. Sign it, make it into a pdf, and email to Trinity@TrinityMyrtleBeach.org

Wedding Coordination Worksheet - This gives us the details we'll need to order your course materials and keep your record updated.

Remarriage Application - If you have been divorced, there are special pastoral provisions required to guide you in your next steps. Please fill out this form and send it to our clergy as soon as possible.

Remarriage is not a guaranteed outcome of premarital counseling and we must have the Bishop's permission prior to the wedding. The form details the provisions that we must meet prior to the wedding. Do not plan anything (deposits, caterers, etc.) until you receive this form back. Plan on 45 days from submission to approval or denial.

Facility Checklist and Policies – This contains all the fine print for your wedding. Please check these policies early and before making any final arrangements. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Step 5 - Make Payment

Members: We appreciate all you've done for Trinity Church over the years. We happily waive all fees for active, baptized or confirmed, members of Trinity Church, their children or grandchildren. Below is a list of the costs, which impact the church budget. Please consider the fees below as a helpful guide in any donation you might make.

Non-Members: We are delighted to have you celebrate your wedding at Trinity Church. We understand there are many costs for a wedding celebration so we've kept our fee as minimal as possible to simply recoup the impact to the building and people. If cost is an issue, please don't hesitate to contact us. Note: If you are not local to Myrtle Beach, we may not have time in our calendar to accommodate your wedding.

#1 Facility Usage and Cleaning

\$400 - This includes the sanctuary, Gravely Hall, and a dressing room for the Bride and Groom. This includes 2 hours before the service, 1 hour for the service, and 4 hours in Gravely Hall after the service. The entire church must be reset for Sunday services not later than 7PM Saturday.

#2 Personnel

\$600 – This includes clergy and musicians for the ceremony and rehearsal.

Musicians – This includes a planning session and 30 minutes of music prior to the wedding, and the wedding ceremony itself with Trinity's Director of Music. Other musicians are welcome (with permission of our Director), however there is an additional charge of \$50/hr to rehearse with them.

Clergy – We want your wedding to be wonderful and your marriage to last forever, so we invest significant time and include:

- Up to five pre-marriage coaching sessions
- Preparation of the service
- Performance of the service at the ceremony and rehearsal
- All course materials (DVD, book, workbooks, and additional resources)

Step 6 - Receive the Course Materials

The course materials are ordered on your behalf and sent to you. Once you get them you can dive right in – they're yours to keep.

They include:

The Marriage Preparation Course DVD

The Marriage Preparation Course Workbooks (one for each of you)

The Marriage Book by Nicky and Sila Lee

Step 7 - Schedule Your Sessions

Send an email to Trinity@TrinityMyrtleBeach.org and ask to set up 5, 1 hour long, meetings with one of our pastors. It's best to give yourself at least a week between sessions to allow for plenty of discussion and info processing. Additionally, we can do these meetings via Skype (or other online meeting tools)... although we prefer face to face meetings.

Step 8 - Begin the Course

Step 9 – Read the Liturgy, Policy, and Recommendations at the end of this booklet and discuss with the clergy

Step 10 – Have fun!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Declaration of Intention

We, and desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by this Church.

We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

(signature of Groom)

(Signature of Bride (Maiden Name))

Dated _____ A.D. _____

Holy Matrimony

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Dearly beloved: We have gathered together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony.

Almighty God established the bond and covenant of marriage in creation as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and his Church. Our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and it is commended by Holy Scripture to be held in honor among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind was ordained by God: for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name.

Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was ordained by Almighty God.

Into this holy union N.N. and N.N. now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not be married in accordance with God's Word, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

The Officiant then continues, saying to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, in the Name of God, from whom no secrets are hid, that if either of you know any impediment why you may not be married rightly, you do now confess it; being assured that those who are joined contrary to God's Word are not truly united in Holy Matrimony.

The Officiant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together out of reverence for Christ in the covenant of Holy Matrimony? Will you love her, honor her, comfort and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers

I will.

The Officiant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together out of reverence for Christ in the covenant of Holy Matrimony? Will you honor him, love him, comfort and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Officiant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold this man and this woman in their marriage?

People We will.

If there is to be a Presentation, the Officiant asks the following, or some other suitable question.

Who presents N. and N. for Holy Matrimony?

Response We do.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman

who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

One or more of the following passages is read.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 45, 67, 127 or 128.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)

Mark 10:6-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 2:1-11 (The Wedding at Cana)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

If Communion is to follow, a passage from the Gospels always concludes the readings. At a Eucharist, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Sermon

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death, according to God's holy Word. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death, according to God's holy Word. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands. If there is to be an exchange of rings, the Bishop or Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be a *sign* of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's left hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Officiant then joins the right hands of the husband and wife, and says

Now that N. and N. have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands (*and the giving and receiving of a ring/rings*), I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

The Prayers

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

All standing, the Officiant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Officiant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following or other suitable prayers.

Let us pray, saying "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony, and enable them to fulfill the vows they have made.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Grant them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a partner in prayer, a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and devotion to you and with one another all the days of their lives.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Give them courage, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their faults, to seek your forgiveness, and to forgive and be reconciled to one another.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

May their union in Holy Matrimony be a model of Christ's love for his Church and for the world.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Bestow upon them, if it be your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Grant that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Give them such fulfillment in their marriage that they may reach out in love and concern for others; and grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, who with your Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign in perfect unity, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel, and the Officiant says

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. In your mercy, bring them to your heavenly banquet where your saints feast for ever at the great marriage supper of the Lamb; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Bishop or Priest adds this nuptial blessing.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

The newly married couple may then exchange the Kiss of Peace, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

When there is Communion, the liturgy continues with the Peace and Offertory, at which the newly married couple, or members of their family, may present the offerings of bread and wine.

The proper preface for Marriage is used.

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers, and then be seated in a place suitable to allow others to receive Communion.

The following Post-Communion prayer is used.

Post-Communion Prayer

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: we give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, *N.* and *N.*, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WEDDING COORDINATION WORKSHEET

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Bride's Maiden Name: _____

Best Telephone # _____

Email address _____

Groom's Name _____

Best Telephone # _____

Email address: _____

Officiant: _____

Assistant _____

Wedding Coordinator: _____

Best Telephone # _____

Email address: _____

Crucifer needed Yes / No

Crucifers Name: _____

If you intend to use your own Lectors for the Bible readings, please provide the readers name and the scripture reading selected:

1st Reading: Reader: _____

Scripture: _____

2nd Reading: Reader: _____

Scripture: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

If there are musicians other than the Trinity Organist, or a soloist, please give details:

Hymns or other Musical Selections: (confirm with Music Director)

Prelude: _____

Processional: _____

Anthems or Hymns: _____

Postlude: _____

Will the service include Communion? Yes / No

Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers serving of Communion.

Name _____

Contacted by _____

Name _____

Contacted by _____

Wedding Attendants to serve as Ushers for Communion

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Marriage Licensed delivered to Trinity on _____

Received by _____

Florist Name and Phone:

Are flowers being taken or left at Trinity after the service? (circle one)

Photographer's Name and telephone number:

Videographer's Name and telephone number:

(Please refer to the Wedding Policy for photography/videography policies.)

Will you use church for the bridal party to dress? Yes / No

(The Church will be opened one and one-half hours prior to the Wedding.)

TRINITY CHURCH

Wedding Policies, Procedures and Recommendations

“Let marriage be held in honor by all...” Hebrews 13:4

The following information is for your guidance in planning your wedding at Trinity Church. It is intended to be fairly thorough and is based upon our experience. By knowing our liturgical customs and how they relate to your wishes, we hope to facilitate worshipful ceremony.

OUR BELIEFS ABOUT MARRIAGE

A wedding is the Church’s sacramental rite of Holy Matrimony in which the bride and bridegroom are the leading participants in a formal act of worship offered to Almighty God. The service is a ceremony in which one man and one woman symbolically present to God their intended union and commitment. The minister receives the intentions of the couple in the name of the Church, prays for them and blesses their union in the name of God. Therefore, the Church expects her clergy to assist each couple in planning and preparing for marriage and it provides a liturgical framework, a ceremony, which will help them express publicly their intentions.

Since the Celebration and Blessing of Marriage is one of the sacramental rites of the Church, one of the two persons requesting the rite of Holy Matrimony must be baptized. In the case of non-members of Trinity Church, the couple must demonstrate a belief in God and faithful commitment to His Church.

The Holy Eucharist (Communion) is recommended as part of the wedding events. Please discuss this with the clergy at your first meeting.

MARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS

Please understand Church Canons require that if the proposed marriage is between divorced person(s), permission from the Bishop of this Diocese must be obtained. If either the bride or the groom is divorced, you will need to provide your divorce decree to the Rector. The Rector will apply to the Bishop for approval of the wedding. If you do not obtain permission from the Bishop, the Book of Common Prayer does offer the option of the blessing of a civil marriage. Any concerns or question can be answered by the Rector.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

It is recommended that you do not make any plans, especially those which involve any nonrefundable expense until you have received written approval by the Rector to have the marriage ceremony at Trinity Church and the date and time of the ceremony is set. The couple is encouraged to discuss the scripture readings, music and other items for the ceremony and prepare questions for their first meeting with the Rector. Appropriate scripture readings and other matters related to approved services are located in the Book of Common Prayer. If you do not have access to a Book of Common Prayer, please ask and we will be happy to make one available for your review.

Note regarding outside clergy: If you wish to have a clergyman from another Anglican Church in this Diocese conduct or participate in the wedding, the Rector’s consent is required and he will extend the invitation to the outside clergy. Permission of the Bishop must be obtained for an out-of-state Anglican or non-Anglican minister to officiate. Please do not make plans with other clergy before first speaking with the Rector at Trinity Church.

FINAL RESERVATION OF THE FACILITIES

Final arrangements for the use of the church facilities for the rehearsal and wedding will be made through the Parish Administrator, **after approval from the Rector.**

Weddings are normally scheduled between the hours of 12 noon and 6 o'clock p.m. on Saturdays. However, the Rector may approve other days in accordance with the customs of the Anglican Church and at his sole discretion.

MUSIC

Trinity Church gives authority to the Rector for all music used in church services. The Rector has delegated his authority over the music to the Director of Music, who is happy to assist you in selecting appropriate music. All music to be played at the wedding must be approved by the Director of Music or the Rector. It is advisable to consult with the Director of Music as soon as possible. If you desire her/him to play at your wedding, arrangements need to be made early on in the planning.

Music selections are normally sacred or classical arrangements, texts drawn from the Prayer Book, the Hymnal, the Holy Scriptures, or other appropriate "church music."

Additional musicians or soloists may be used with the permission of Trinity's Director of Music. When other musicians and soloist are used, this normally requires rehearsal prior to the wedding, which may carry additional charges. You will be advised as to these costs when meeting with the Director of Music. Financial arrangements with guest musicians must be made directly with them.

WEDDING COORDINATION

Trinity Church does not have a wedding coordinator. Please deliver a copy of this booklet, with the details filled in, to the wedding coordinator. A wedding coordinator can be helpful, but is not necessary. As a reminder, all coordination must be approved by the Rector.

THE DECORATION OF THE CHURCH

Flowers

All wedding decorations must be planned and carried out with the approval of Trinity Church. Our experience is that simplicity in decorations works best in our Nave and Sanctuary.

It is normal for the wedding party to provide the altar flowers for the wedding ceremony. Flowers by Richard and Bright and Beautiful have worked with Trinity in the past.

You may place flowers, greens or ribbons marking the section of pews reserved for family and special guests. Pew markers should be discussed with Trinity. No additional floral arrangements are necessary although special requests may be approved by the Rector. No decorations are allowed outside the church building or on the doors.

Delivery of bridal party flowers must be scheduled with Trinity. Normally delivery two hours prior to the wedding works best. **NOTE: The church is not staffed or open on Friday or Saturday afternoons unless prior arrangements have been made.**

NO flower petals, rice, bird seed, confetti, etc may be scattered in or around the church buildings, nor may balloons or sparklers be used.

Candles

The Altar Guild will place new candles in the candelabra on the altar. If the wedding is at night please discuss with the rector if you wish to use pew candles.

Aisle Runner

Cloth or paper runners are not permitted on the aisles of Trinity Church. Past experience has shown them to be troublesome and unsafe.

Other Furnishings

No furnishings may be moved without permission from the Rector. The Altar Guild will place white hangings in the church.

Communion Elements

If you desire communion as part of the service, Trinity will provide the bread and wine in accordance with our tradition and practice.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER

You may select the Photographer and/or the Videographer of your choice. Please inform them of the following policies and recommendations concerning photography at Trinity Church as soon as you make your arrangements. The Pastor will insure their compliance during the wedding ceremony.

1. The empty decorated church may be photographed before any guests are seated.
2. Photographs of the bridal party may be taken in the holding rooms of the church before the ceremony as long as it does not interfere with or delay the start of the wedding ceremony.
3. The bridal party may be photographed at the rear of the church before the procession begins and as they reach the rear of the church after the ceremony. Time exposures are permitted from the back of the church during the ceremony.

If Holy Communion is part of the service, it is requested that no photographs be taken during the consecration of the elements.

During the ceremony, the photographer may come half way down the side aisles for a few pictures, but in no instance should the photographer come down the center aisle or come into the area of the altar (area past the first row of pews).

4. The wedding party may return to the church following the ceremony for additional pictures. We ask that you limit this process to 30 minutes, remembering that you have reception guests awaiting your arrival and that preparations need to be made in the church for other services. Please plan ahead with your photographer the desired pictures and groupings.
5. Your wedding may be videotaped using one stationary camera placed on a tripod in the balcony of the church. The videographer may not use additional lighting.
6. Ushers will be requested to remind guests arriving with cameras that no photography or videography is permitted during the ceremony.
7. Camera persons should be appropriately attired.

Please convey these to the photographers.

THE REHEARSAL

A rehearsal is necessary to enable the participants to know in advance where they are to stand and what they are to do during the wedding ceremony. Rehearsal is normally conducted the day before the wedding. The entire wedding party should plan to attend, including any readers; however, the number of non-participants should be kept to a minimum.

YOUR WEDDING DAY

Dressing for the Wedding

If the bride and attendants plan to dress at Trinity they should plan to arrive 1 to 1.5 hours before the ceremony. If dressing elsewhere they should arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony. We suggest that the groom and his party dress elsewhere and arrive one hour before the ceremony. This time frame allows for clothing adjustments to be made, last minute hair and makeup touch-ups to be done, flowers to be distributed, and pictures taken. The Choir Room and the Parlor are available for dressing and picture taking before the ceremony and will be opened 1.5 hours prior to your wedding ceremony. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the premises. No smoking is allowed on the premises at any time. Snacks, soft drinks, water and the like are permitted. Please do not move any furniture or hang clothing from any light fixture. It is suggested that you pack all belongings before the ceremony so that they may be picked up quickly as you leave for your reception. It may be helpful for you to assign someone to assist with this cleanup. Any items left behind will be available through the Church Office the next week.

The Marriage Service

Below are some suggestions based upon our experience of ceremonies at Trinity Church. We hope they are helpful and if you have any questions, please discuss them with the Rector.

a. For the service to begin at the appointed time, the cooperation of the entire wedding party and family members, photographers, etc. is necessary. It is often best to have the wedding party at the church at the earliest practical time so that unexpected issues can be handled.

b. The groomsmen normally act as ushers and escort all guests to their seats. Except for those pews reserved for the respective families, pews are normally filled from the front to the rear of the church with minimal regard to the bride's and groom's "sides." Customarily, after seating the escorted guest, the usher proceeds down the center aisle toward the front of the church and returns to the rear via the outside aisles.

c. It is best to have someone working with the bridal party to assist with distribution of boutonnieres, bouquets, and corsages and if needed will help you check your appearance and clothing. She/he can escort the grandparents, parents and the bridal party to where their places at the proper time. Immediately before the ceremony begins, the groom's mother, followed by the bride's mother are traditionally escorted to their pews by an usher. At this time, no more guests should be seated until the bridal party has entered.

d. When the bridal party is ready, please have someone who will signal the clergy and the organist that the procession may begin. The Rector will provide instructions on how this is best done.

e. The most common practice is a full procession from the rear of the church which includes the crucifer, best man and groom, groomsmen, bridesmaids, and the bride with her father/escort. Alternatively, the groom and best man may enter from the sacristy or robing room with the clergy. The order for the procession will be planned with the aid of the Rector.

f. If Communion is a part of the service, it is best to have three (3) ushers assigned to assist attendees to communion. One (1) usher to send people up from their seats and 2 stationed at the foot of the steps to the Chancel to assist those who need help climbing the steps. The Rector can provide instructions to the ushers assigned. The Rector will also give instructions to your guest regarding taking of the Eucharist in the Anglican Church. There are a number of places for the Bride and Groom to sit during communion, including one of the benches in the Chancel area or the first row pews.

Your Attendants

The number of attendants is a personal choice. Trinity Church can comfortably accommodate six attendants each for the bride and bridegroom. If you choose to have a ring bearer, it is suggested that the maid/matron of honor and/or the best man have custody of the rings to be used in the ceremony.

Seating Capacities and Arrangements

Trinity Church seats approximately 450 people. There are 28 rows of pews. If pews are to be reserved for family members and special guests, your ushers should be instructed about this at the rehearsal. The bride's family is seated on the left, the groom's on the right, when facing the altar. The number of reserved pews and who will sit in them should be decided by the bride and groom and their families. It is the bride's and bridegroom's responsibility to notify these people of their exact seating location and to tell them to notify the usher where they are to sit. It is suggested that you bring to the rehearsal a list of the persons who are to sit in the reserved pews so that the number of reserved pews can be confirmed.

Acolytes

The use of acolytes at your wedding is optional. Acolytes are used to light and extinguish the candles and to carry the cross. If you desire to have acolytes please consult with the Rector or Parish Administrator.

Lay Readers/Lectors/Chalice Bearers

During your service one or more passages from Holy Scripture will be read. (See page 426 of The Book of Common Prayer). After studying the suggested readings, the bride and bridegroom may wish to discuss the choices with the clergy. Please make

copies of the ESV translation of all readings available at the rehearsal and at the wedding ceremony. It is customary for the couple to select one or two lay persons (Lectors) to read selected scripture. Your readers should attend the rehearsal.

If you plan to have Eucharist (Communion) at your wedding you will need one or two people to assist in serving the sacrament (Lay Readers or Chalice Bearers). Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers are normally licensed by the diocese. If you do not personally know someone qualified to assist, many members of the Parish are happy to serve and the Rector or Parish Administrator can assist you in finding someone for you. The number needed often depends on the number of guest expected at the wedding.

Sound System

Amplification is provided for the readers and clergy. The Director of Music can assist you in setting the sound system.

Receiving Lines and Guest Register Books

It is our experience that receiving lines and Guest Register Books are best suited for the reception. However, you may discuss with the Parish Administrator or Rector having a Guest Register Book available.

Wedding Programs/Bulletins

Programs are not provided by Trinity's Church Office. If you plan to have one printed, a draft copy should be provided to officiating clergy and the Director of Music for review at least a week in advance. This review will lessen the likelihood of mistakes. Please bring several copies of the program to the rehearsal.



Trinity Church

**The Mission of Trinity Church is to Share the Gospel,
Make Christ-Centered Disciples, and Equip
Ambassadors for a Broken World.**

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